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Israelis take cover in Herzliya during rocket fire from the Gaza Strip | AFP

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RESURGENT HAMAS LAUNCHES FRESH ROCKET ATTACKS TARGETING TEL AVIV

The first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January sent Israelis scrambling for cover on Sunday, but there were no reports of casualties

EIGHT PROJECTILES FIRED FROM RAFAH: IDF

Israel's army said at least eight rockets were fired towards the country's central regions from Gaza's Rafah, adding "a number" of the projectiles were intercepted. In Tel Aviv, rocket sirens blared for the first time in several months. The fresh attack is seen as a show of resilience by Hamas at a time when Israel's war cabinet is set to discuss truce and hostage release deal | P9

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES ON GAZA CONTINUE

- Israel continued its air strikes on northern, central and southern areas of Gaza on Sunday with its military saying more than 50 "terrorist targets" were struck across the Palestinian enclave since Saturday night
- The Israeli army said its troops seized dozens of rocket parts and weapons from an arms depot operating inside a school in northern Gaza's Jabalia

81

PEOPLE KILLED IN GAZA ON SUNDAY, THE HAMAS-CONTROLLED HEALTH MINISTRY SAID

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Six babies killed in Delhi hospital fire, five injured

Was running without valid licence; doctors BAMS degree holders

Crowd seen in front of a children's hospital in New Delhi's Vivek Vihar area where a fire broke out on Saturday night killing six newborns | PARVEEN NEGI

UJWAL JALALI @New Delhi

SIX newborns were killed and five others injured after a massive fire broke out at a private childcare hospital in Delhi's Shahdara area late on Saturday night. According to police sources, the hospital was functioning without a valid licence and it did not have clearance from the Fire Department. The hospital did not even have the mandatory fire extinguisher. There was no emergency exit either, officials said.

According to a senior officer, a total of seven infant bodies were sent for postmortem, including the body of one child who had died hours before the fire incident. "The child had died a couple of hours before the incident during treatment. He had some heart problems. The hospital staff had intimated his parents around 8.30 pm on Saturday," DCP (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary told *TNIE*.

The hospital's owner Dr Naveen Khichi (45) and duty doctor Dr Aaksh (26) were arrested. Police officials said the doctors on duty were not qualified to treat infants as they were BAMS degree holders.

An FIR has been registered under IPC Sections 336 (act endangering life and personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence), 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide).

The Delhi government has ordered a magisterial probe into the fire tragedy.

The licence issued to the hospital had expired in March. "Even as per the expired licence, it was supposed to have only 5 beds. But 12 newborns were in the hospital at the time of the accident," a senior officer said.

The fire broke out around 11.30 pm on Saturday. Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot. By the time firemen reached the spot, the building was already engulfed in flames. The firemen and police personnel rescued 12 infants from the building and took them to a nearby hospital. According to fire officials, it took them around 70 minutes to control the inferno.

Officials said the probable cause of the fire was short circuit. According to sources, the babies died due to excessive heat and asphyxiation. The fire had not reached the room where the infants were kept.

Rajkot gaming zone did not have fire dept's NOC, says FIR

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

A day after the deadly blaze at TRP Gaming Zone in Gujarat's Rajkot, the city police on Sunday registered a First Information Report (FIR) as per which the facility lacked fire safety equipment and was operating without the required 'No Objection Certificate' from the fire department. The toll from the blaze climbed to 28 on Sunday.

As per the complaint registered by the police, "The owner of the TRP Zone constructed a gaming area using an iron and sheet fabrication structure, approximately 50 meters wide, 60 meters long, and two to three floors high. Despite knowing the severe fire risk, they operated the gaming zone without effective firefighting equipment or a fire department NOC."

Rajkot taluka police have booked six persons for culpable homicide not amounting to murder including Dhaval Corporation proprietor Dhaval Thakkar, Raceway Enterprise partners Ashoksinh Jadeja, Kiritsinh Jadeja, Prakashchand Hiran, Yuvrajsinh Solanki and Rahul Rathod, as per the FIR.

However, Rajkot Police Commissioner Raju Bhargava said the accused have presented evidence of fire safety equipment.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat High Court on Sunday took suo motu cognizance of the incident, calling it prima facie a "man-made disaster". The matter will be heard on Monday. The court may issue a directive concerning the state's game zones.

Big Knights eclipse Sunrisers in one-sided final

GOMESH S @Chennai

HEADISHEK is a moniker Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma earned for destroying oppositions, setting record partnerships and touching heady heights during powerplays. They rewrote the batting manual and cooked the winning recipe for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Heinrich Klaasen provided the finishing touches. Bowlers led by captain Pat Cummins then make sure to secure the matches. Put up big scores and out-bat oppositions.

On Sunday, with the temperature hovering around 40 degree Celsius during the day, Kolkata Knight Riders, armed with an array of bowlers — both incisive and utility — led by the ever-dependable Mitchell Starc had only one thing in mind. Stop the openers from scoring big and restrict in middle overs. But in the most one-sided final, KKR not only managed to send Headishek home early but tore into the batting order. A late rearguard by Cummins helped them to reach a figure — 113 — that they usually would score in the first eight overs.

Kolkata Knight Riders players celebrate after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai on Sunday. This is their 3rd IPL title after 2012 & 2014 | ASHWIN PRASATH

With a strong KKR support in the stands, Starc delivered the ball of the season to clean up Abhishek on the fifth delivery of the match — a sharp outswinger that clipped the top of off stump. And Vaibhav Arora's outswinger sent back Head in the next over. Then Starc removed Rahul Tripathi in the fifth, and KKR were in the driving seat. Their mystery bowlers, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, tweaked the story a little further. Venkatesh Iyer's fifty ensured no hiccups for KKR.

A highly-entertaining IPL that saw records of highest scores turned into a dampener. An antithesis. Even as a storm set to ravage Kolkata late night, this news of IPL triumph would help fans to tide over the dark and dreary night with optimism. After all, KKR has won the title after 10 years. P11

Bengal braces for heavy rain as Cyclone Remal makes landfall

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

CYCLONE Remal intensified into a 'severe cyclonic storm' and made landfall between West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts on Sunday night with wind speeds ranging from 110-120 km per hour and gusts reaching up to 135 kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD said the weather system will bring heavy to very heavy rainfall over South and North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Kolkata Howrah and Hooghly districts of West Bengal while heavy rain is likely in the state's Paschim Medinipur, Purba Bardhaman and Nadia districts on May 26 and 27.

Extremely heavy rains are also likely to lash parts of northeast India on May 27 and 28. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea till May 28.

Around 1.10 lakh people have been evacuated from coastal regions, including Sagar Island, Sunderbans, and Kakdwip, as a precautionary measure.

Kolkata airport has suspended flight operations for 21 hours beginning from Sunday noon.

Rain and strong winds ahead of the landfall of Cyclone Remal, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The cyclone made landfall late on Sunday | PTI

The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata suspended all cargo and container handling operations for 12 hours from Sunday evening. Railway operations in the port area will also be suspended during that time, officials said.

Sixteen battalions each from the state disaster management force and the National Disaster Response Forces have been deployed in the coastal regions to help with evacuation and relief works.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review response and preparedness. West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose said he is closely monitoring the situation and is in touch with the state and central experts to ensure a coordinated response.

The state government has set up a 24/7 control room at the state secretariat in Kolkata to monitor the situation in the state's coastal districts. The helpline numbers at the state secretariat are 1070 and (033)-22143526.

Tiger mauls woman to death in HD Kote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

A 48-year-old woman was mauled to death by a tiger in HD Kote taluk on Saturday night. Her body was found in the forest early on Sunday morning.

Foresters identified the woman as **Chikkamma aka Chikki** of Maladavadi Haadi in N Beguru. She was attacked by the tiger while she was grazing goats at Moorband Betta. When Chikki did not return home till late in the evening, her family members, villagers and forest staff started searching for her. Her mutilated body was found near the forest watchtower, and the tiger had dragged her body for a distance.

Hediyala ACF G Ravindra said, "To monitor the movement of the tiger, around 40 camera traps have been installed," he said.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Field Director S Prabhakaran, ACF Ravindra and RFO Manjunath Bagewadi visited the spot, and found tiger pugmarks closeby. They issued a cheque for Rs 5 lakh to the woman's family.

In 24 hours, 51 killed in road accidents across Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a span of 24 hours, Karnataka witnessed horrific road accidents that claimed the lives of 51 individuals, marking one of the highest tolls in a day in the recent past.

Referring to a road accident in Hassan district on Sunday morning, Additional Director General of Police (Traffic & Road Safety) Alok Kumar posted on X on Sunday, "In last 24 hours, 51 lives lost in road accidents, one of the highest toll in the recent past. Many of these caused due to rash and reckless driving. Road safety needs responsible behaviour from all the stakeholders."

In 2023, on an average 34 people were killed every day in road accidents across the state, with the most severe occurring on highways. Most of the accidents were reported on the weekends.

Traffic expert Sreehari MN said authorities need to strictly enforce traffic laws and hold awareness campaigns. Most accidents are due to poor riding/driving skills. RTO rules for approving and testing drivers need to be strict, he said.

6 die as truck rams into toppled car near Hassan

Hassan: Six people of a family died on the spot when their car was rammed by an oncoming truck after it hit a divider and toppled to the right of the road, near Hassan early on Sunday morning. The family was returning from Mangaluru to their native Karahalli village, Bengaluru rural | P5

EXPRESS READ

CID to take over custodial death probe

Davanagere: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will take over the investigation into the alleged death of a man in police custody in Channagiri on Friday, said Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth on Sunday. She said police have arrested 25 persons for vandalising the police station and attacking police personnel. They were part of a mob that attacked the police station after the death of an arrested person, Adil. Channagiri, which was tense over the custodial death, returned to normal on Sunday | P4

12 hurt as Qatar Airways flight hits turbulance

London: Twelve people were injured during turbulence on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Ireland that landed safely on Sunday, Dublin airport officials said. The incident comes a week after a passenger died and dozens were injured when a Singapore Airlines flight from London hit severe turbulence and was diverted to Bangkok. Six passengers and six crew members suffered injuries in the latest incident, when Qatar Airways flight QR017 endured turbulence over Turkey, Dublin airport said in a statement | P9

Can the rebel Soren sour JMM's hopes in its traditional stronghold?

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

JHARKHAND'S Dumka Lok Sabha seat, the traditional stronghold of JMM patriarch Shibu Soren, is witnessing a curious contest this time as Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Soren is fighting on a BJP ticket. A long-time JMM member and three-time MLA from Jama Assembly, she joined the BJP in March claiming she was "neglected and isolated" in the JMM.

Since 1980, a candidate from the Shibu Soren family used to contest from Dumka. But this time, to avoid a family feud, the JMM has fielded veteran leader and six-time MLA Nalin Soren from the seat, which is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

As for the BJP, it has benched sitting MP Sunil Soren to put Sita Soren in the fray. Sita was married to Durga Soren, Shibu Soren's son and Hemant Soren's brother. She entered politics after the untimely demise of her husband in 2009 at the age of 39. She was elected from the Jama Assembly seat for the first time in 2009. Among the Soren siblings — Durga, Hemant, Basant, and sister Anjani — the eldest brother, Durga, was supposed to take over the reins of the JMM from Shibu Soren. Durga Soren's death paved the way for Hemant Soren's inheriting the party.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

Dumka has been a stronghold of JMM with Shibu Soren getting elected eight times from the seat. However, in the Modi wave of 2019, the BJP's Sunil Soren defeated the JMM veteran by 47,000 votes.

Both Sita and Nalin have a strong support base in their respective regions but they don't have any local issue to raise, to seek votes. Nalin Soren is trying to mobilise people on the issue of tribal respect by raising former CM Hemant Soren's arrest as an insult to the community.

Sita Soren is banking on 'Modi ki guarantee' and the welfare works done for the tribals by the BJP-led central government. She is also seeking 'justice' saying that she and her daughters were ignored by Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren.

Sita Soren (left) and Nalin Soren

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

The current political scenario is fluid in this constituency and it is difficult to predict who will emerge victorious. Tribal, Muslim, and Christian votes that constitute around 45% of the total vote count are expected to go to the JMM and votes of remaining communities to the BJP. However, the BJP is hopeful of increasing its votes this time as state BJP president Babulal Marandi is popular among the tribal voters in Dumka. "If Babulal Marandi succeeds in mobilising even 5% of the non-Christian tribal voters, the situation will change and the result will go in BJP's favour," said Shivshankar Chaudhary, a senior journalist based from Dumka. The total strength of non-Christian tribal voters in Dumka would come to around 15%, he added.

On the other hand, there is a fair amount of resentment among the tribals over Sita Soren's decision to leave the JMM when Hemant is in jail. "The timing of her leaving the party, and the family, will make a negative impact among her supporters who had been loyal to the Soren family," said Ajiz Mian of Mohara village under Jamtara Block of Dumka.